



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

House Bill 261

Public Projects – Global Warming Potential of Materials (Buy Clean Maryland Act)

Date: March 28, 2023
To: Budget & Taxation Committee

Position: **Support**
From: Doug Myers
Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 261 which requires the producers of cement and concrete used for construction of state buildings, highways and other major capital projects to provide information on the environmental impact of, and the Department of General Services to ascertain the global warming potential of, those products. The bill also requires the Department to set a maximum global warming potential for certain cement and concrete and project that maximum in bidding documents for state projects.

This bill importantly recognizes that greenhouse gas emissions occur throughout the lifecycle of a project, including the materials used, how they are manufactured and the distances they travel from point of origin to where they are used. Cement and concrete, in particular, have high greenhouse gas emissions associated with their manufacturing. According to EPA, Carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from cement manufacturing exceed 65 M metric tons/year¹.

This bill also allows for the consideration of the accounting of travel distances in the total global warming potential of a material. From this standpoint, the bill could provide favorable conditions for Maryland companies and companies within the region that would transport the materials few miles.

As with any program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, CBF points out that doing so also reduces emissions of nitrogen oxides which become a source of nitrogen loading to the Bay not assigned to any sector for reduction.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 261.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/trinationalanalysis/greenhouse-gas-reporting-cement-manufacturing-sector>